



February 18, 2005

## **Providence man is sentenced for fraudulent check scheme**

A federal judge has sentenced **Mbuyama Tshibaka**, of Providence, to 42 months in prison for a bank fraud conspiracy in which he recruited young women to obtain cash for him against counterfeit and stolen checks.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith imposed yesterday in U.S. District Court, Providence. Judge Smith also ordered Tshibaka, 29, of 45 Greenwich Street, to make \$49,380 in restitution to the three banks that he defrauded.

In June, a jury convicted Tshibaka of bank fraud. During a five-day trial, Assistant U.S. Attorney Terrence P. Donnelly presented evidence showing a pattern in which Tshibaka would approach a young woman and discuss modeling or other career opportunities. After gaining their confidence, Tshibaka induced the women to open bank accounts and gave them checks to deposit.

Tshibaka then had his accomplices withdraw cash against the checks before the bank realized that they were fraudulent. They gave him the cash and he gave them back a percentage. The checks ranged in amounts from about \$4,000 to \$40,000 and totaled approximately \$150,000 over a six-month period.

One group of fraudulent checks used in the scheme belonged to a salesman whose checkbook was stolen from a department store counter in Baltimore. Others were

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counterfeit cashiers checks written against the funds of a Wisconsin woman.

The **United States Secret Service** and the **Rhode Island State Police** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Donnelly prosecuted it.

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